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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING FEBUARY 28, 2014

GOVERNOR'S RAISED BILL No. **36** ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNER'S
RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE***

Testimony of Nanette Alexander IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 36

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Committee

Thank you for raising this bill and providing an opportunity to speak on an important issue affecting nurse practitioner practice and improving access to healthcare providers in our state.

My name is Nanette Alexander and I'm testifying in support of Raised Bill No. 36_ -
I have been a nurse practitioner since 1995 and served as a primary care provider since then. Patients have chosen me as a primary care provider, and I have functioned as a primary care provider managing their care.

The Governor has raised this bill to remove the written collaborative agreement and to improve access to APRNs as healthcare providers. The Department of Public Health has given a favorable report to the scope of practice change. This change will allow for advanced practice nurses to practice to their full scope of education and training.

I have had the privilege of serving my patients as a primary provider of healthcare. I have guided my patients in both wellness and illness. During times of illness I have collaborated with various healthcare providers. This is a standard of practice.

I have collaborated with my physician of record, as he also has collaborated with me when my knowledge base meets his patient's needs. More frequently, I have collaborated with physicians of specialties, or other healthcare disciplines. This is standard of practice and does not require statutory language.

The safety of nurse practitioners has been well documented. The Institute of Medicine has recommended the removal of statutory barriers to the practice of nurse practitioners. There is a documented shortage of primary care providers, nurse practitioners can help provide primary care. There is also a shortage of psychiatric providers; access to psychiatric nurse practitioners has been hampered by this written collaborative agreement. If enacted, Connecticut will join 18 other states that have removed these barriers, furthering the health of our state and our nation.

Please consider supporting this important bill that increases healthcare access to the population of Connecticut.

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